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NEWS BULLETIN AND PRICE LIST

SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, JANUARY, 1942



(LOOK OUT FOR BOOK NEWS ON PAGE 5)

J. Russell Smith

NOT SO SLOW

The early bearing habits of the grafted Chinese Chestnut trees puts a quietus on the idea that nut trees are slow in beginning to bear.

A Fairbanks hybrid hickory will also surprise you by getting to work early.

Here are passages from unsolicited letters.

"Red Bank, N. J., Oct. 8, 1941 — On April 17, 1939, we bought two chestnut trees from you which are bearing fruit this year, and we like them very much. We would like to obtain more."

Another customers writes, 9/27/41, Hancock, Md. — "One of my greatest joys was to pick up five chestnuts under your Chinese chestnut tree; a squirrel beat me to three nuts." Those trees were planted in 1941, but were unusually precocious.

THE THRILL OF GATHERING NUTS

I understand very fully the thrill of these two middle aged professional men at picking up chestnuts. Ripening chestnuts are beautiful things. It thrills me to walk through the nursery in September and October and see the glossy brown nuts peeping out of the opening burrs with here and there a shiny gleam coming up from the ground.

My satisfaction at this has no relation to such earthly matters as eating. Nut trees are fun, as well as beauty, interest and food supply.

I gave two seedling trees to one of my suburban neighbors some years ago. Now you would almost think he was a bantam rooster to hear him crowing about the chestnuts that he gets. He has a lot of fun giving nuts to his friends. And incidentally he sends his friends to me to buy trees so that they may join the group of the sentimentally elect.

PLEASE ORDER EARLY

Business was brisk last fall and some lines were sold out entirely. In some varieties we have but few trees to sell. They will be given to those persons who order them first. No more Broadview English walnuts until fall.

We may reprint the price list at any time, omitting the lines that are sold out. Therefore the advantage of early ordering should be apparent. In the present state of labor and tires we can't guarantee to race off 7 miles to the station with one or two hurry orders.

We especially urge those persons who wish to buy trees with a ball of earth to get their orders in as early as they can.

We never can tell what is ahead of us in the matter of weather, to say nothing of the war. Last spring, for example, winter sat on us with heavy snow until the middle of March. The weather man turned on August with temperature of 80° April 12. Thus we had a one month satisfactory shipping season rather than two.

This spring the war industries may take our labor away so that we may be unable to handle orders for fifty or a hundred trees with ball of earth as we did last spring unless they come early.

NOTE—So far as we know everything that we sell except mulberry has better chance of yielding if it has a partner of same species and different variety to pollenate the blossoms—except that black walnut will pollenate English walnut and Chinese chestnut will pollenate Japanese.

1 CHINESE CHESTNUTS TO THE FORE. Each year that I experiment with Chinese Chestnuts my opinion of them rises. Chestnuts are certainly the most productive of all nut trees. They are also the most precocious. Each of the other nut trees has its especial merits but in these two the chestnuts lead. The parent trees from which we propagate are the carefully selected best out of many thousands of seedling trees. They will bear as soon as apples or peaches. Occasionally one bears the year it is set out. And as to quality, the very conservative Mr. C. A. Reed, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, has said this:

"The best of the Chinese chestnuts are without peers among known chestnuts from any part of the world. They are large as average European chestnuts which appear on vendors' stands from November to mid-winter. They are as sweet as were the best natives. When in the right stage of maturing, the pellicle of the kernel usually clings to the shell when the kernel is being extracted."

We have been surprised to learn that our "Carr" Chinese Chestnuts have survived the winter near Minneapolis, Minnesota. This is in Zone 1 of our Map p. 7 of catalogue. This suggests that it is wise to experiment with Chinese chestnuts in Zones II and III.

We are offering four varieties of Chinese chestnuts. We have not yet had time to find out if one is better than another. Zimmerman is the most erect.

CHINESE CHESTNUT TREES THAT HAVE RIPENED NUTS

If you are in a hurry for nuts you can get chestnut trees that already have ripened some nuts. A number of chestnut trees, 5-6 feet, 6-7 feet, 7-8 feet, 8-9 feet, have matured a crop of nuts. These trees have been carefully marked. If you want some of these proved trees add \$1.00 to the list price. If you take it with ball of earth you will have nuts in a hurry. Remember you need two kinds for pollination. No extra charge for trees over 8 feet that have borne nuts.

2 AMERICAN PERSIMMON. The flavor of this fruit is unexcelled and those who know it love it. The trees are pleasing features of a lawn and may be expected to do well on all but the higher elevations south of the line Boston—Albany—Buffalo. A tree that holds ripe fruit for a month or six weeks is an interesting and useful citizen of your yard.

If there is any streak of experimentation in you try some of these interesting trees. The trees are tall and cylindrical in shape.

Early Golden. Has ripened fruit some seasons September 25 at Round Hill, Virginia, elevation 1350 ft. There had been no frost.

This variety is one that has been longest in cultivation.

Kansas. A native of Kansas, it has survived for years at Williamsburg, Iowa, when apples, peaches and pears froze to death. It is probably our hardest variety—very prolific.

Killen, a native of Delaware. Bill Wiley, our 'possum hunter grafter, says that the fruit is the best of the lot. That's a matter of opinion.

3 CHINESE PERSIMMONS. In growth habit they resemble pears. Varieties: **Great Wall, Peiping, Emperor.** All good, too soon to differentiate. Fruits 2½ to 3 inches in diameter.

4 The Austin **JAPANESE CHESTNUT** is continuing to make friends. The parent tree of this variety was awarded the largest money prize ever given for a nut tree in the United States. I have seen the parent tree in Delaware. It seems to be perfectly blight proof, although the native American stock on which it was grafted was badly affected. The nut is very large but very sweet. We have a moderate supply of these trees. Climate requirements same as for Chinese chestnuts.

5 HONEY LOCUST. Eventually the most important thing I ever did may be the introduction of the honey locust as a forage crop. The way the

honey locusts clustered themselves with long pods of beans is very suggestive of a great new forage crop and possibly also a commercial sugar crop. (see book Tree Crops). Great big, fat sugary pods hung in masses and ripened on test trees of the two honey locusts that I am offering. They have proved themselves in the Philadelphia climate. If you have a cow let her have a little fun. She likes candy as well as any girl. If you keep livestock in the pasture where these trees grow you will have to get up early in the morning if you expect to find any beans on the ground. They will have been eaten at dawn by the quadrupeds. Varieties: Calhoun and Millwood. No known difference between these two varieties as yet.

6 FILBERTS—For a long while I turned up my nose at filberts but I had a few trees. At last the handsome way they grow won my attention. Picking up the nuts won my affection. Eating them confirmed it, and now I'm an enthusiast starting a test orchard and selling the proved standard varieties. Try some. They are intimate yard trees and very good screens.

Barcelona is the heavy bearer and Du Chilly and several others are pollinators. You must have both. Please order Barcelona and pollinator. One pollinator to half a dozen Barcelonas is all right. Two are better. Six feet apart for a screen, fifteen to twenty feet apart in the open.

7 HAZEL NUT. This is a hardy plant. Very satisfactory to grow and an early bearer. Winkler variety is native to Iowa—very hardy. Filberts will pollenate it, so will wild hazel pollinator. Hazel will not pollenate filbert.

8 PECANS. The Pecan has pistillate blossoms at one time and staminate blossoms at another, and they are not exactly methodical as to when they perform.

The Kentucky variety has pollen for the longest period. Therefore you should have one. The beginner should also have Busseron and Indiana. They are the most precocious and early ripening. The Greenriver has larger nuts but it needs a week or ten days more time. The Major will outbear them all but the nut is not quite so large as the others. Its time of ripening is in between the others.

9 SHAGBARKS. We have nine varieties of this interesting species. The parent trees are scattered all the way from the Great Smoky Mountains to Ontario and Wisconsin. Unless you are an experimenter or one who knows a lot about hickories the way to order is to give us your **latitude** and altitude and let us select the varieties. One of the dangers in moving trees is to get them too far north or south of the home of the parent tree. Trees have a **light rhythm**, (length of day). It is deep set in their bones.

10 BLACK WALNUT. Thomas, heavy yielder; Stabler, the beautiful lawn tree; Tasterite, native of Ithaca, N. Y. The tree for the north.

11 ENGLISH WALNUT. Wiltz Mayette, the old standard; Treat Frauquette, a runner up; Broadview (sold out) supposed to be extra hardy.

12 YEW TREES. We have some Japanese Yew. Erect ones, excellent for hedge. If interested, write for prices.

13 DWARF ENGLISH BOX. We have a few nice healthy globular plants, 18 inches to 2 feet across. Write for prices.

Get Our Special Tree List

As company for my old age I am building up a collection of varieties of Shagbarks and hickory hybrids on my Blue Ridge mountainside. I now have about 70 varieties. They are interesting company. My human friends get busy, they get old and bald, they go to the great beyond. The trees keep green and grow greater and greater as the years roll by—very interesting company.

LARGE SIZED CHESTNUTS, WALNUTS, PECANS, SHAGBARKS

The special tree list gives trees by number and they are all sold with ball of earth. This list contains trees not obtainable elsewhere. Many of the trees are bearing trees.

PRICE LIST FOR NUT TREES

SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, SWARTHMORE, PA.

The Nursery is at Round Hill, Va., but the sales office is at Swarthmore, Pa.

This price list cancels all previous lists and will be cancelled by the next one. All trees are grafted unless otherwise specified. Will be shipped bare root and properly cut back unless otherwise requested.

Prices F. O. B. Railway Express or Freight office, Purcellville, Va., unless otherwise stated. Please be sure to give correct shipping address. We do hate to send a tree to the wrong place.

Terms: Cash with order.

Trees with ball of earth should go by railway freight. Bare root trees should go by express and it is our practice to send them that way. If persons must have parcel post shipments we let them pay postage via C. O. D. (C. O. D. for the postage). Parcel post packages have to be small, sometimes undesirably small. We do not recommend it.

HALF DOZEN SOLD FOR THE PRICE OF FIVE SINGLE TREES.

DOZEN RATE DOES NOT APPLY TO LESS THAN THREE TREES OF ONE VARIETY IN AN ORDER TOTALING SIX TREES OR MORE.

NOTE—A variety is shown by name, thus, Wiltz Mayette English Walnut, Carr Chestnut, etc.

	1-2 ft. Ea.	2-3 ft. Ea.	3-4 ft. Ea.	4-5 ft. Ea.	5-6 ft. Ea.	6-7 ft. Ea.	7-8 ft. Ea.	8-10 ft. Ea.	10-12 ft. Ea.
Black Walnut **									
(Thomas, Stabler, Tasterite) ..		\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.10	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$4.00	
Northern Pecan†									
(Busseron, Green-river, Kentucky, Indiana, Major)		2.50	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00	6.00	7.00
PECAN x HICKORY HYBRID—HICCAN									
Burlington, Des Moines (rival of Burlington) Gerardi and Bixby, new ones		2.25	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.50	4.50	5.50	7.50
Hybrid Hickory†									
Stratford and Fairbanks		2.00	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.50			
Pure Shagbark (Grafted)		2.80	3.40	3.75	4.25	4.60	5.00		
English Walnut (Grafted)									
Wiltz Mayette, Treat Franquette	{	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.75			
Japanese Chestnut—Austin variety		1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00				
Chinese Chestnut (Grafted)									
Zimmerman, Carr, Connecticut Yankee, Hobson		1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.75	4.50
American Persimmon									
(Grafted) Early Golden, Killen, Kansas		1.75	2.00	2.20	2.35	2.50	2.60		
Chinese Persimmon									
Great Wall, Pelping, Emperor			2.00	2.50	2.75				
Honey Locust (Grafted)†									
Calhoun and Milwood75	1.00	1.25	1.40	1.50	1.65	1.75	
Honey Locust Seedlings									
(For your own grafting. Transplanted35						
Mulberry (Grafted)									
Everbearing80	.90	1.00	1.10	1.25		
Filberts—Barcelona, Du Chilly									
(pollenator)		1.00	1.25	1.50					
Hazel Nuts—Winkler90						
Wild pollenator25								
Pawpaw Seedlings75	1.00							

* If interested in a beautiful shade tree try a big pecan. Write for special tree list.

**Specimen Black Walnuts to ornament your yard at once and bear nuts soon. Get our special tree list.

† Special price on quantity of honey locust and grafted chestnut.

Straight Line Seedling Chestnuts

For generations the farmers in a locality northeast of Peking, China, have been planting orchards of chestnut trees. Their trees are not grafted.

When planting they naturally use the seed from the best trees. No chestnut will come absolutely true from seed, but this process of selecting the best seeds generation after generation makes seedling trees that produce nuts of unusually uniform quality for seedlings.

As a result of my travels in China I managed to get two small shipments of these seedling chestnuts through the war clouds.

I can spare a small number of these straight line seedlings. If you like to try out new things here's a chance. You might get the best chestnut tree in America. Two years old, two feet high.

Price each, 75¢. Three trees for \$2.00. Six trees for \$3.75. Not more than six trees to any one person. We want to get wide distribution.

An Unusual Cherry Tree—The July Queen

Here is a secret of the cherry tree business. The easy way for nurserymen to grow them is to bud or graft the good varieties onto a young tree of a variety known as the **Mahaleb**. This is a European tree. It has nice roots, transplants easily, is easy to graft or bud. It is easy to grow trees in the nursery on Mahaleb roots. The trouble is they are short-lived in the orchard.

There is another species of cherry known as the mazzard. They grow wild in the fence rows and fields, even in the woods, over many of our Eastern States. They have a much better root system than the Mahaleb. Forty years ago these trees were to be found by the hundred in the vicinity of the Sunny Ridge Nursery, at Round Hill, Virginia. I have seen mazzard trees two feet in diameter that were known to have as much as 300 gallons of fruit on them. We called them black hearts and red hearts.

In recent years some mysterious ailment has killed nearly all these trees. Here and there a tough one has survived, and one of these has been called to my attention because of its physical vigor combined with its unusual fruiting habits. It ripens in July after all the fine improved cherries are finished and gone.

I cannot claim that the fruit is as large as some of the standard commercial sorts that ripen ahead of it. Its two virtues are the physical vigor of the tree combined with the lateness of the fruit, which is a very good fruit, red and firm.

I have a small number of these special mazzard trees grafted on mazzard roots. Price, 4-5 ft., \$1.00; 5-7 ft., \$1.25.

OUR TREES ARE FOR THE NORTH

The rubber industry of the Far East is derived from the seed of Brazilian rubber trees grown in the greenhouses of Kew Gardens, London. The Kew trees were raised from seed carried from Brazil by Sir Clements Markham.

By a similar process, we are raising northern trees in the northernmost corner of Virginia and expect them to do well in Massachusetts and Michigan. Here is the way we do it.

We use walnut roots from Minnesota, on these we graft the Tasterite walnut which grows on the cold plateau near Ithaca, New York. This is our Farthest North Walnut.

The cions of shagbark trees from Minnesota, from Michigan, and from Ontario, are grafted on the roots of young trees grown from Quebec nuts. Persimmon seed from Northern Missouri and Kansas are grafted with cions of persimmons that have done well in Iowa. The seed for our grafted chestnut stocks has been imported from Tientsin, in North China. Our Chinese persimmons were imported personally from the extreme northern range of Chinese persimmons.

I have seen snow two feet deep at Sunny Ridge Nursery, and I have experienced temperatures of 30° below zero in that neighborhood.

BALL OF EARTH

I strongly recommend that you let us ship large sized trees, by railway freight with ball of earth (balled and burlapped). You will be surprised to see how reasonable the freight rates are. Your local railway can give you exact freight rate to your station. Present rates per 100 pounds, from Purcellville, Va., to:

Philadelphia, Pa., 60¢; Boston, Mass., 91¢; Buffalo, N. Y., 90¢; New York City, 71¢; Pittsburgh, Pa., 76¢; Chicago, Ill., \$1.12. It is difficult to tell in advance what the ball of earth with trees of different sizes will weigh. For a rough basis we suggest that you figure as follows: Under 6 feet, 75-100 lbs.; 6-8 feet, 150-250 lbs.; 8-10 feet, 250-350 lbs.; 10-12 feet, 350-500 lbs. Sometimes they will exceed these weights.

Planting with ball of earth is the quick way to get a nut tree started. It can start to growing the first year and you save two years' time. I did it with my 50 acres of Pecans—trucking the trees fifteen miles. A few years ago I put 40 balled and burlapped hickories out in a bluegrass sheep pasture. They all lived but one. Let us send yours that way.

We have shipped balled and burlapped to Texas with complete success.

Trees will be prepared with ball of earth carefully burlapped and put on train for \$1.00 per tree extra for trees under 6 ft.; \$1.50 for trees 6-8 ft.; \$2.50, 8-10 ft.; \$3.50, 10-12 ft.

FALL PLANTING recommended on Long Island and on and south of line—New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburg. November is an excellent time. In the spring plant as early as you can. We do not advise planting before October 25th.

NORTHERN NUT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

You probably will want to join. George L. State, Secretary, Geneva, N. Y.

This is a varied collection of interesting people (doctors, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, professors, farmers, spinsters) who have nut trees for avocation—annual meeting an unusual summer vacation event.

Reading Guides For The Owner Of Nut Trees

1. THE PLANTING, FERTILIZATION, & CARE OF NUT TREES AND PERSIMMONS by J. Russell Smith, ScD, postpaid 25¢.

Don't buy good trees and then kill them by misguided care. This booklet will save you many times its cost and increase the results for all but the most skillful.

2. HOW TO GRAFT NUT TREES. Postpaid 25¢.

The real fun is to graft your own nut trees. It is not especially difficult but it does require special technique. This illustrated booklet tells just how to do it.

This booklet is Appendix F of the book *Tree Crops*. So you don't need both unless you want the booklet to carry around with you.

Reading for Those Who Love the Land and Want To Know Their Country and Its Resources and Prospects

1. TREE CROPS, A PERMANENT AGRICULTURE,

by J. Russell Smith, ScD.

This book is 300 pages of pleasure to the person who loves trees or loves the earth or who likes to hear about things he never thought of before.

If you have a streak of ingenuity you will like this book. It tells how we are on the road to a whole new series of crops that grow on trees instead of on straw. Don't you want to have a hand in this new thing? The tree is nature's real engine of production and this book tells about some of them—Pecans, Persimmons, Hickories, Hybrids, Black Walnuts, English Walnuts, Honey Locust (cowfeed), Acorn bread and other things that are just over the hill waiting to come into your yard.

If you have a constructive imagination this book is likely to cause you to start something.

This book has been favorably reviewed by the Imperial Institute in London and from one end of the U. S. to the other.

A remarkably helpful and interesting book.—San Antonio Express.

This book is a thriller.—Bee, Sacramento, California.

This book for persons of special interest has been out of print for 6 months. The commercial publisher, who works for profit, will not re-issue it. It happens that I wrote the book to spread an idea and so I have had a special printing made for the small but persistent demand of the people who want a better America.

Printing of small numbers is expensive, so our price has to be \$3.50 postpaid in United States or Canada. This is less than a commercial publisher would ask.

This is a book which some of the most famous judges in America have given to their friends as presents and have read aloud to their wives in the evening.

2. NORTH AMERICA, THE CONTINENT AND ITS RESOURCES AS THE HOME OF MAN, by J. Russell Smith and M. Odgen Phillips, 1021 pages, \$4.75 postpaid, a study of the continent by producing regions such as Corn Belt, Cotton Belt, Southern California, the West Indies, the Plateau of Mexico, etc.

Used as an economic guide book by Educated Europeans. Put one in your automobile. It is a standard book without a rival in its field.

Keep either book three days and if you do not like it send it back. Your money will be promptly refunded.

**Address And Make Checks Payable To
SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, SWARTHMORE, PA.**

Do not telephone Swarthmore about trees. Do not call there about trees. It is a strictly mail order office. The trees are far away on the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. Your letters will receive prompt attention, so will your orders.